“Normandy”

A modern story

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1 – EXT – BEACH - MORNING

Charlie is watching the waves crash along Venice beach and he has a rope tied to two

Palm trees with a tarp. He is holding a plastic champagne flute and pouring apple juice.

Charlie v.o. “The Torment of the past, those yesteryears are new tomorrows, days past,

Memories of darkness and light, sweetness and simplicity, they say the past is something we

Must not hold on to but art remains to remind us.”

1A – EXT – MAIN STREET VENICE - MORNING

Charlie is wandering down the Main Street as the sun is rising in the morning sky. There

Are very few people on the Street except for a small group of people gathered at a corner

Coffee shop. Charlie “v.o. “it was then, feeling like a ghost in my own city, that I decided

To leave for Europe and see if I could find myself amidst the metropolitan city street of

Paris and beyond.”

1B – INT – AIRPORT TERMINAL – LATE AFTERNOON

Charlie is staring up at the arriving and departing flights.

He adjusts the straps of his duffle bag and heads over to the counter.

Counter girl

How can I help you this evening?

Charlie

I’d like a flight to Paris

Counter Girl

Will that be one way or round trip?

Charlie

Just one way.

Counter Girl

We have a flight at six fifteen
Leaving from Terminal 2 it
Stops in Istanbul and arrives in Paris
At 8:15 pm.

Charlie

How much is it?

Counter Girl

Six hundred and fifteen dollars.

Charlie

I’ll take it.

Charlie purchases the ticket,

Counter Girl

Will you be checking in any bags?

Charlie

Do I need to?

Shows her his duffle bag.

Counter Girl

You should be o.k.

Charlie heads through the Homeland Security identification check, shows his passport and goes to the gift shop to buy candy bars and water. He finds a seat in the terminal and begins to wait.

People are coming and going. A little girl walks by holding her mom's hand with a candy bar

In the other hand. Charlie looks up at the screen for the departing flight.

Police Officer

Charlie Donaldson?

Charlie

Yes that's me.

Police Officer

Can you please come with us?

Charlie

What's the problem?

Police Officer 1

Your mother reported you

Lost or missing.

Charlie

Well tell her you found me.

Police Officer 2

It’s not that simple. Can you
Please come with us. There
Are just a few things we need
To clear up.

Charlie

A few things? You can’t be serious.
I was on my way.

2 – INT – INTERROGATION ROOM - EVENING

There are six officers in the room and Charlie is nervous.

Police Officer 3

So where you heading off to tonight Charlie?

Charlie

I’m going to France.

Police Officer 4

Going off to France. That’s nice.

Why didn’t you call your mother?
Her and your family are very worried about you.
They said something about being off your Medications?

Charlie (lying)
I’m taking my pills. I’ve been telling her
The last six months that I’m leaving.
She just doesn’t believe me. I even sent
Her emails of the places I wanted to stay.

Officer 1
I’m afraid you won’t be able to
Fly tonight.

Charlie goes through
His wallet and pulls out a photo
Of his father in the army.

Charlie
Look, my father was in the service.
I can understand all the worry and
Everything but can you do me a favor
And get me on that plane?

Officer 2

I’m afraid there is nothing we can do.

Charlie

I’m just asking you to be of service
To me. Is that so much?

Officer 4

I’m going to walk him to the plane.

Officer 3

Are you sure Bill?

Officer 4

It’ll be o.k.

Charlie

Thanks officer. I really appreciate it

Officer 2

Just don’t forget to call your
Family when you arrive.

3 - INT – AIRPORT TERMINAL RAMP - EVENING

The officer and other officers following escort Charlie
To the plane.

Officer 4

Have a nice flight.

Charlie

Thanks officers.

Charlie checks in his ticket with the stewardess and boards the plane. We see an angle

Of Charlie packing his bag in the stow away compartment and getting comfortable in

His seat, he stares out the window as the plane begins to move.

Charlie v.o. “Always a question,

mesmerized by the myriad of choices, always

communicating, reserved, spelled by the insight

Of reason, unknowing, that is peace of mind, the

deliberate unbelievable burden of thought,

Tangled in spinning visions of media, thought

entangling us to dream, never knowing there end,

relentless, conquering fears and hopes, daylight

and bliss, tossed in a sea of sorrows.”

We see a view of the Pacific Ocean through the window as Charlie writes.

Charlie makes himself comfortable and we see a long shot of him falling asleep. A

Bell RINGS “Please fasten your seats for landing” comes over the announcement.

4 – INT – TERMINAL IN FRNCE - EVENING

Charlie is walking through the terminal and stops

an airport worker with orange vest on and asks him about the buses.

Charlie

Excuse me, but do you know

When the next bus to Paris departs?

Airport worker (pointing)

Twenty minutes. From there outside.

Charlie

Thanks.

Charlie goes to the patisserie and orders a coffee and croissant.

He sits at a table and a couple of businessmen are talking near him.

Charlie finishes quickly then finds a corner of the terminal and puts his bag down

Charlie starts to write again.

Charlie v.o

“Everyone sees,

there might be a little amount

enough for everyone

to eat.

The principle,

you have to run for it

wherever it goes

then there are some

who search the darkness for answers

Carrying only the light with them.”

.”

We see a bus pull up to the curb and Charlie gets on.

Scene 5. INT - Evening. Inside the bus.

Charlie makes himself comfortable and the bus begins to

Move towards Paris. Charlie sits in the seat and starts to write again.

Charlie v.o.

“Punishment,

We punish ourselves for the people we think we should be,

when we should reward ourselves

For living, being alive, enduring, I guess we care too much,

What other people think of us, we shouldn’t find any

reason to it, but we punish ourselves,

In the most unique ways, some of us smoke, drink, eat too

much, we all have our thing,

Some people fight themselves

For a lifetime, never really settling the score,other people

conquer their downfalls

And live productive lives, it’s hard to say, how fate will

divine us.”

We hear over the speaker “Champs E’lysee” and the bus comes to a stop
And Charlie grabs his bag and departs the bus.

6 – EXT – PARIS - EVENING

Charlie moves along the streets of Paris
and puts his bag down and lights a cigarette.
A beautiful woman passes. Charlie sees a
McDonald’s across the street and goes in.

7 – INT – MCDONALDS - NIGHT

A few younger kids are talking at a table
and Charlie orders a hamburger, fries and a soft drink.

8EXT – CHAMPS E’LYSEE – NIGHT

Charlie leaves the Mcdonald’s and finds a dress store
with an archway on the Camps E’lysee
And puts his bag down and gets his blanket out of the bag and falls asleep.

Charlie v.o.

“My father always said the most expensive street in Paris is

the Champs E’lysee and I never thought I’d wind up here

alone but it was my first choice for a place

To sleep when I arrived. Sylvester had told me to head

South towards Provence, but a large part of me wanted to

head West towards the beaches of Normandy so I could see

for myself the famous beaches where our troops had landed

to win the war.”

Scene 8A – EXT – STREETS OF PARIS

. Walking with his bags, Charlie stumbles upon the Tuilleries.

Charlie v.o.

“Of course these are the famous French gardens in the

middle of the city.”

Charlie wanders through the Tuilleries.

9 – INT – MILITARY SUPPLY STORE -FRANCE -AFTERNOON

Charlie asks about the price of a jacket, buys a utensil set and duffle bag and a military issue pot and pan.

10 – INT – TRAIN STATION - AFTERNOON

Charlie is at the train station trying to buy a ticket.

He is having trouble with the language on the machine.

He finally gets a ticket and boards the train to the St. Germain.

10 A EXT – CAMPING STORE – AFTERNOON

He finds a camping store and buys a tent and a sleeping bag.

10 B INT – CAMPING STORE AFTERNOON

10 C - EXT – ST GERMAIN -AFTERNOON

10D – INT – PATISSERIE – EARLY EVENING

Charlie stops at a patisserie and gets some bread and coffee.

He brings out his journal and starts to write

Charlie (v.o)

“Those Lovely Times
I seek the doorways to oblivion
at times, I must admit, the inner
shadows of my life behold the breathing
dragons of black lagoons, imagining
the lull of afternoon upon me.

10 D – EXT SHOTS OF CHARLIE WALKING WITH HIS BAG THROUGH PARIS –

LATE EVENING

10 E – INT – LAZARE STATION – EVENING

He boards the train back to the Lazare station and gets on the evening train to Normandy.

11 – INT – TRAIN – EVENING

The conductor arrives with a drug sniffing dog.

Charlie is rifling through his bag for salami and bread.

Charlie

Can I give him salami?

Conductor

No. How are you today?

May I see your ticket?

Charlie

Here it is.

Conductor

This is only a reservation.

Charlie

Well I wondered why it was so cheap.

Conductor

Can I see your passport?

Conductor (laughing)

You bought a ticket for one and a half Euros and thought it would get you onto the train?

Charlie

Well, I’m an American travelling here in France.

I never bought a ticket before.

Conductor

I’m going to have to give you a citation. The Train fare is thirty six dollars. How do you want to pay?

Charlie

Can I give you a card?

Conductor

Yes. That’s fine.

The conductor runs the card on a handheld device and issues Charlie a ticket.

Charlie

Thank you very much.

Conductor

Enjoy your stay.

Charlie

Hey, wait a minute.

How much is the fine?

Conductor

Eighty six euros.

Charlie

Man.

Charlie stares out the window at the French landscape and we see the sky grow darker.

The announcer comes on the speaker and announces in French “Now arriving in Caen.”

Charlie

Well I guess this is my stop.

12 – EXT- TRAIN STATION - EVENING

Charlie grabs his duffle bag and exits the train. It is pouring rain.

Charlie (v.o)

“My first night in Normandy

reminded me of the War. The night before

D Day General Eisenhower attempted to bomb all the

artillery emplacements on the beach, but the weather was

so rainy and cloudy he overshot the

targets and missed them all. It was pouring that night I

arrived and I had no idea where I was

going. The only thing opened was a hamburger place

across the street so I thought I would stop

in for a bite to eat.”

13 – INT- AFGHANI HAMBURGER PLACE - NIGHT

The man behind the counter is bearded and working with a young man that is probably his son.

There is a big screen television playing Music videos in the corner. A fight breaks out between some Algerians in the corner of the store and the mob takes it out to the street where they continue to fight. Nobody really knows what it is all about.

Charlie

Can I have a cheeseburger and fries with

A coca cola?

Afghani Counter guy

That will be six euros.

Charlie

Here you go.

Charlie pays him and begins to wait.

Son of counter guy

Have a seat. We'll bring it to you

Charlie

Thanks.

Charlie takes a seat and watches the television trying not to pay attention to the fight going on

outside. You still here screaming and yelling in Arabic.

Afghani man (bringing the food)

We’re closing up soon.

Charlie

I eat fast. Don’t worry.

Charlie v.o while eating “Like I said before, I wanted to see the beaches of Normandy for

posterity, but I had no idea how the bus routes ran. I just thought I’d take the first one that

Came along the street.”

Charlie puts his garbage away and thanks the guys at the counter.

He exits the hamburger place and talks to an Algerian refugee.

Charlie

How do I get a bus to the beach?

Algerian

Over there. Across the street.

Charlie

Your English is pretty good.

where are you from?

Algerian

I am Hassan. From Algeria.

Charlie

I’m Charlie nice to meet you.

I’m from California.

Algerian

Just wait over there. Maybe ten minutes,

Charlie

Thanks.

14 – EXT – BUS STOP - EVENING

Charlie waits with a few others for the bus.

He smokes a cigarette and the bus arrives. He gets

on.

Charlie v.o.

“The only thing I knew for sure that first night, is that when

I got off the bus I was no where

near the beach. I guess I had taken the wrong on or not

rode it far enough

But when it made a turn, I panicked and got off about a

quarter mile from the City of Mathieu.

It was raining so hard, I found myself stuck in a field and

the best I could do was throw my tarp

Over the bus seat and sleep underneath it.”

We see Charlie adjusting the tarp on the bench

and the rain is pouring down but the bus stop

Has a covering.

We see the cars whizzing by at top speed and

Charlie is looking at them from under the tarp.

The noise makes it difficult to sleep.

15- EXT – FRANCE-MORNING

Charlie awakens and pulls out some salami from his bag and some bread, along with some fruit

punch and puts the tarp away and eats a bit. He finds himself in front of sprawling fields of

lettuce as he begins to walk towards the city of Mathieu.

Charlie (v.o)

The soul of yourself

The shadow of your curve

the way that you go.

I found myself in the sprawling fields

Of Normandy, completely alone

Taking in the morning

With all its breathtaking sites.

16 – EXT – GATES OF MATHIEU - MORNING

There is a big sign that says “Mathieu” on the gates

And the city appears desolate of people.

There is a beautiful house with a garden right near the city gates

And Charlie stops a while to peer over the short fence.

He walks into town.There is one bar open in the whole town, nothing else

Except a travel agency that is closed for the weekend. Charlie goes in.

17 – INTERIOR – BAR IN MATHIEU - MORNING

He asks the counter guy how he can catch a bus back into town and the Lady at the counter

indicates in broken English that the bus is across the street and down the road, where he had just come from. Charlie buys a bag of chips and some soda and then counts his last change.

18 – EXT- BUS STOP - MORNING

Charlie waits for the bus with a beautiful young girl.

They don't speak a word to each other.

Charlie v.o. "I guess I'm shy about meeting new people or perhaps I feared there was too much

of a language difficulty." The bus arrives and they take it to the city of Caen.

19- EXT-CAEN-AFTERNOON

Charlie looks around and there is a patisserie where he stops in and gets some bread. There is a

beautiful woman behind the counter. .

20- INT-PATTISERIE-AFTERNOON

Charlie buys the bread and picks up his things to

walk out. Charlie v.o. "The one thing I was sure of about Normandy, is with all these pretty girls

it was no wonder they won the war."

21 – EXT – PATTISERIE-AFTERNOON

Charlie adjusts the bag on his shoulder and sees a Church of St. Andre across the street. And decides to go in.

22 INT-ST. ANDRE'S CHURCH-AFTERNOON

Charlie is the only one in there and he stops for a While to get his breadth.

He sits in the chair and the silence in the room is deafening. We hear sounds

Of children playing outside.

24 – EXT-CAEN-AFTERNOON

He walks out of the Church. A young boy whistles from the corner.

He signs with his head rolling the Charlie should follow him.

Another boy is at the next corner and the seen is like something

out of a spy novel as the young boys, without saying a word,

lead Charlie to a park area. Charlie begins to unpack his bag

and we hear a man walk by saying "This is a children's park, you can't stay here." So Charlie entones "Sorry boys, I guess I got to keep moving."

SCENE 25-EXT-CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAEN-LATE AFTERNOON

Charlie walks around the campus and we see random groups of students walking by. He finds a tree at the very edge of the campus and pulls out his sleeping bag and settles for the evening. Charlie gets comfortable under the tree and we hear little drops of rain THUD on the sleeping bag. They get faster.

Charlie

Just my luck.

He puts his head all the way into the bag to cover himself. Night falls.

SCENE 26. EXT-TREE LINED AREA OF THE BACK OF CAMPUS-MORNING

Charlie Awakens and pulls out some more salami and bread and begins to eat. We hear the

birds SINGING. Charlie v.o. “Something more than unusual happened that first morning I

Awakened in Caen. There I was next to this old, ancient house with an old wall and

As I turned my head to look at the wall it was the vision of the most beautiful woman in the

world Appearing before me.” We see the image of a woman appear out of the wall.

Charlie begins to pack his things,

Woman

I am the woman of this

House. I lived more than

Two hundred years ago,

Charlie

Well, I guess I’ve been alone

Long enough to start seeing things.

Why did you choose me?

Lady

Because you were innocent.

Charlie

That’s for sure.

Charlie finishes packing. He takes a train to the middle of the City and plops down in front

Of a row of flowers and puts his hat out. Charlie v.o. “I had no money left and the only

Option for dinner was to panhandle. So I got started. The French were kind to me. They

Brought me sandwich meat and cheese, cartons of milk, and some gave the little change

They had.”

27 – INT – MARKET – EVENING

Charlie goes in and buys some soda and some chocolate .

27 A – EXT – RIVE D’ORNE

He crosses the river and makes his way to a hotel.

27B – INT- HOTEL MERCURE - EVENING

There is an empty ballroom and piano.

Charlie sits down and plays the piano.

Music : https://soundcloud.com/johnnyzero-2/the-weekend-that-never-happened

SCENE 28- EXTERIOR-CAEN-EVENING

Charlie crosses the Rue Saint Jean and sleeps at the back of the Church.

We see the evening fall and the early morning arrives. Charlie is greeted by a man smoking a

cigarette who sits at his side.

Gils

Good morning.

Charlie

Thank you. I’m Charlie

Nice to meet you.

Gils

I’m Gils, did you sleep here

Last night?

Charlie

I did. What do you do around here?

Gils

I play jazz saxophone.

Charlie

That’s cool. I play piano.

Gils

Sometimes me and my friends

Get together at the local clubs

And play music.

Charlie

Maybe we will play sometimes.

Gils

Would you like a cigarette?

Charlie

Sure. Thanks.

Gils gives him a cigarette.

Gils

Where are you from?

Charlie

I’m from California originally.

Gils

Ah California. So you’re an American?

Charlie

Yes.

Gils

I would like to see California.
But the truth is I’ll probably never
Leave this small town. I have no money.

Charlie

Well, it’s a beautiful city you have here Gils.
I wouldn’t blame you for staying here.

Gils

Yes, but sometimes I think of travelling.

Charlie

It’s fun. I won’t deny it.

Gils

How long have you been here?

Charlie

Only a couple of days.

Gils

Are you going to stay?

Charlie

I think so. I really like it here.
It’s a beautiful city.

Gils (getting up)

Well, I better be going. I have
Some laundry to take care of.

Charlie

Thanks for the cigarette.

Gils

No problem.

Charlie packs his bag and starts to walk back across the street.

Charlie v.o. “I still had no money from home until the first and that was

Three days away, so I had to go back to sparing change on the Rue Saint Jean.”

29 – EXT- CAEN- AFTERNOON

Morning turns into evening as we see Charlie sitting Lotus style in front of his hat.

People move by in time lapse, fast, some passing by and some stopping to give change.

At the end of the evening Charlie counts twelve Euros.

30-INT-MARKET-LATE AFTERNOON

Charlie buys some bread and peanut butter, an apple and some

chocolate, soda and some yogurt. He asks them for a plastic spoon and the lady just shrugs.

31-EXT-THE MARKET-LATE AFTERNOON

Charlie is remembering he has a utensil set and gets it out of his duffle bag. He spreads some

peanut butter on and opens the yogurt. Some young kids

Are running by and one of them stops long enough to try and pull his blanket from his shoulders.

Charlie tugs it back “Hey” he says and the student lets go, laughing they move quickly down the

street as the weekend is just beginning for them.

Charlie is eating. Then he pulls out a notebook and begins to write.

Charlie v.o. “The truth is I came to Normandy to write poetry but I fell in love with it because it reminded me of my hometown only the way it was forty years ago when I was still a child. A small town with it’s novelties and quirks, but a small town nonetheless.”

32 – EXT-TRAIN STOP – LATE AFTERNOON

Charlie is waiting with a couple of stunningly beautiful girls.

They are shy and giggling. They all board the train and Charlie takes it four stops to across

town. Charlie v.o. “I still needed to find a place to put up my tent.”

33-EXT-TRAIN STOP ACROSS TOWN-EVENING

Across the street is another small market and Charlie crosses the street and goes inside. A man

who looks like a young Leonardo Da Vinci is at the counter and he has a small sketch pad where

he draws fantastic designs.

Charlie

Ah, Leonardo Da Vinci

I’ve found you at last.

I’ve travelled the ends of the earth to

Meet you and here you are in a fast food

Market. It figures.

Leonardo

Is there anything else I can do for you?

Charlie

Can I have one of your famous sketches.

Leonardo

I’m afraid those aren’t for sale.

That’ll four euros.

Charlie pays him.

Charlie

I understand. Have a good day.

Leonardo

Bon journee.

34-EXT CAEN GARE TRAIN STATION - EVENING

Charlie steps out of the market and Hassan is outside.

Charlie

Hey Hassan. I didn’t think

I’d see you again.

Hassan

You look like you need a shower.

Charlie

Do you know where I can find one.

Hassan

There is a bar near the Pierre

Where for one euro the guy will let you use
The shower. There is also a public one
For the homeless across the other side of
The train station.

Charlie
More idmportantly, where do
You sleep at night?

Hassan
Just on the streets, up the road.

Charlie (pointing down
the road to a bush lined area)

What about over there? I’m going to check it out.

Hassan
You should be alright anywhere along
The Rue de Gare.

Charlie
Thanks

Scene 35. Exterior. Rue La Gare. Evening

We see Charlie walking down the road. Charlie v.o. “Along the Rue La Gare are the most

beautiful maple trees I have ever seen. We had a tall maple

Tree like these in the house I grew up in and they always remind me of home whenever I walk

Along the way. This is the beginning of the Trail of King Arthur.

As I was walking along the Rue La Gare for my first time I drafted this poem.

Leaves of Normandy

I am the leaves along the walkway

I am the soul that knows no mind

I am the silence that speaks to myself

without companionship or dreams

everything I have known and seen

scattered to dust in angry words

I am the disturbance of cold moods

coming to greet you in warmth

I am the language of sin,

trying to entertain

those who could not laugh or cry

I am the time of day,

in my own way

I am like the seasons of the sun

the waters turning with their power

torn asunder with the realization of time

the cold blanket truth of it, that I resist

what is told to me in confidence

as only part of a larger half truth”

36-EXT-RUE FALAISE – EVENING

We hear Charlie RUSTLING the leaves and on the

Corner of the Rue la Gare and the Rue Falaise he find an empty spot opened in the bushes.

There are beer bottles and condoms, used toilet paper and other junk like a sea of bedlam and

Charlie grabs what spare bags he can find and starts to clear the area. He puts up his tent and get

inside.

37- INT-TENT-EVENING

We hear a KNOCK on the front side of the tent.

Charlie

Just a minute.

Thomas

Is there anybody in there?

Charlie

Hold on a second. I’ll be right there.

38 – EXT-TENT-EVENING

Charlie stuffs his bag to the back of the tent and unzips the lining.

Thomas is medium build, Afrikaan, Holding a bottle of Jack Daniels.

Thomas

Hello American. I am Thomas.

Charlie

I’m Charlie.

Thomas

Everyone is talking about the American

Who came here last night and I wanted

To see for myself. Is it true?

Charlie

Is what true?

Thomas (chuckling)

\ That you are American.

Charlie

Guilty as charged.

Thomas

I would like to see America for myself.

Charlie

Oh yeah. Why?

Thomas

New York, Chicago. The biggest

Cities in the world.

Charlie

No I think it’s Mexico.

Thomas handing him a bottle of whiskey.

Thomas

The truth is I just wanted someone to drink with.

You know why I drink?

Charlie

Why?

Thomas

Because I am a man. I am a man

God damn it.

Charlie

That’s sounds like as good
A reason as any. Be careful you
Don’t die drinking like Kerouac
That’s a big bottle.

Thomas
I don’t give a fuck.
If I die. I die. I’m a man and I drink.

Charlie
I can see that.

Thomas hands him the bottle.

Charlie
Thanks. Where are you from?

Thomas
Originally?

Charlie
Yeah. Originally.

Thomas
Nigeria. But I came to
France hoping to make it to America.
No visa. I’m stuck here.

Charlie

Well that’s not so bad.
This is a nice place.

Thomas
I want to see America.

Charlie
In America I went bankrupt,
Lost my job…. Yeah not the
Land of opportunity they build it
Up to be.

Thomas
Life is hard. Hard everywhere.

Charlie
I guess that’s true.

RUSTLING of the bushes.
They both turn around. Enter
Cecil, also Nigerian. A little
Bit older then Thomas.

Cecil
Hey hommies.

Charlie and Thomas
Hey. What’s up?

Cecil (laughing)

Nothing much.

Charlie

What’s so funny?

Cecil

I just can’t believe

You are living outside like this.

It’s wrong. You should have a place.

Charlie

Well, I’ll start looking for one soon.

Meanwhile I got to make due.

Thomas

He’s an American.

Cecil

An American. You’re kidding?

Thomas

No joking man. He’s American.

Charlie

I’m Charlie.

Cecil (taking the bottle)

I’m Cecil. Nice to meet you.

Charlie

Where are you from Cecil?

Cecil

Nigeria like this young fool.

Cecil sits on a tree root next to Thomas.

Thomas

Let’s go dancing. It’s Friday.

Charlie

I’m too old and too tired. For dancing.

Thomas

Man. I’m telling you. Lot’s of girls.
We need to find you a woman.

Charlie

That’s true, but I don’t think
I’m going to find one dancing.

Thomas

We’ll lets drink and smoke some shit.

Cecil

You've got some shit?

Thomas

No man.

Cecil

Ah, that's just like you Thomas.

Thomas

You got some shit?

Cecil

Hommie. Of course.

RUSTLING in the bushes.
Enter Jules, also Afrikaan,
Followed by Mustafa.

Mustafa (laughing)

It looks like a party, gentleman.

Jules

We need to build a big fire. Like
In Somalia.

(Jules starts gathering sticks)

Charlie

Not too big a fire. I don’t

Want to attract too much attention.

Mustafa

I’m Mustafa. That’s Jules.

Charlie

I’m Charlie.

Jules

Nice to meet you.

The gentleman watch and drink

While Jules continues to gather sticks.

Mustafa

Nice to meet you, Charlie.

Where are you from?

Charlie

America.

Mustafa (laughing)

You’re kidding me?

Charlie

No. I’m from California.

Mustafa

What’s a California boy
Doing all the way out here?

Charlie

Well my father died, my business
Went under and I had nothing much
To do there, so I came to see Europe.

Mustafa

That’s a good reason.

Cecil (slapping Mustafa’s arm)

Man he doesn’t need any good reason,
He’s here now. Welcome, Charlie.

Jules

Welcome.

Charlie

Thanks.

They put some stones together and start a fire.

Thomas

It’s almost nine. Let’s go to the club.

Charlie

Thomas, I’m too tired from travelling.

Thomas

Let’s smoke some shit and go to the club.

Cecil

(lighting a joint, passing it to Charlie who refuses)

Jules

You want to see the girls?

Thomas (hitting the joint)

Come on man, it’ll be fun.

Jules

We’ll see you later. Tomorrow.

Jules and Thomas get up to leave.

Charlie

Yeah I’m going to stay back.

Mustafa, Cecil and Charlie

Sit by the fire. Long pause.

Mustafa

So you’re really from America?

Charlie

Yep.

Mustafa

I can’t believe it. A young man
Like you leaving it all behind for this.

Charlie

It beats being broke in America.
Where are you from Mustafa?

Mustafa

I’m from Somalia, Charlie.
Like Jules.

Charlie

When did you get here?

Mustafa

When I was six we moved to
England so I was raised in British schools.

Charlie

Oh, that explains why your English is so good.

What is that cut on your face?

Cecil

Because he’s a fool.

Mustafa

Me and Cecil had a fight before.

Cecil

And he’s still a fool.

Mustafa

Watch it before I bust you
In your mouth.

Charlie

Guys, guys. No fighting.
It’ll attract police.

Cecil

I’m cool.

Charlie

Listen guys, you caught
Me just before I was going to sleep.
You guys want to hang out
That’s fine. But I’m going to sleep.

Mustafa (sticking a stick into the fire)

We'll be alright. Go sleep.

Cecil

Goodnight, Charlie.

Charlie

Yeah, goodnight.

Mustafa

Charlie, do you have another blanket?

Charlie

Yeah, sure. Take this one.

39-EXT-TENT-MORNING

Mustafa is gone and the blanket is in the dirt.

Charlie packs his bag and heads across the street to the market.

He buys some allumes for the fire and a grill and some bread, eggs, milk, yogurt. Then he

Heads to the bar and buys cigarettes. He looks down the street and all the guys are at the

Park bench in the middle of the line of Maple trees. They are all getting drunk. He puts his

Things in the tent and goes to visit them.

40 – EXT-PARK BENCH-MORNING

Charlie

Good morning.

Thomas

Man you missed so much fun last night.

Jules went home with a girl.

Jules (smiling)

It’s true. She was a student.

Mustafa

Charlie, I thought you’d be gone.

Charlie

No way Mustafa. You’re stuck with me

For good.

Cecil

Charlie, you have to get off these streets.

Charlie

I’ll work on it. Promise. Introduce me around.

Wait. I have to go to the bathroom.

Mustafa

Where you going, Charlie?

Charlie

To the bathroom, I'll be right back.

41-INT-TRAIN STATION-MORNING

Charlie waits at the seats for a chance to use the restroom.

There are a couple of beautiful girls waiting at the seats and police

With dogs move along the walkway.

42-INT-RESTROOM-MORNING

Charlie washes his hands and faces and goes back to the bench.

Charlie v. o. "Making excuses. I'm sorry I was late for the party, sorry I could not be more

forthcoming, summer's near and transfixing daylight, turning somber moods into ashen solitude,

the remorse of centuries believing again,

In the revelations of autumn morning we begin again and I can't decide if the turmoil of youth is

any less disaster then the waning and disappearing time that enfolds us by legions of tears meant

to fulfill their destiny with timeless essence of virtue."

43 – EXT-PARK BENCH-MORNING

Charlie

Anybody want to join me for breakfast?

\ Francois

No they just want to drink.

Mustafa

Let me introduce you.

They all look at him. Mustafa makes the introductions.
Gabe is a Rastafarian
Franklin is Indian
Francois is an old black man from
Guadalupe, a French colony. He
Bangs his chest and exclaims “French militaire!”
Louise is Afrikaan from Nigeria.

Cecil

Charlie this is Gabe, Francois, Franklin
And Louise.

Charlie

Nice to meet you. I’ll be back in an hour
Or so. I have to cook some breakfast.

Louise

Charlie, Charlie. Spare some euros for
Me, please.

Charlie

What do you need it for, beer?

Louise

Charlie, please.

Charlie

Ok, here’s a euro. But I’m not

The bank of England.

Louise

Charlie, please, I need two.

Charlie

Ok.

Charlie walks along the Rue de Gare back to the corner where his tent is stashed.

44-EXT-TENT-MORNING

Charlie is cooking food.

He makes some French toast and hashbrowns.

Jules arrives.

Jules

American! Hello.

Charlie

Hey Jules.

Jules

We had so much fun last night.

You should have come with us.

What are you making?

Charlie

Some French toast with hash browns.

Jules

Are those potatoes?

Charlie

Cooked like you’d find in an old

American roadside dinner.

Jules

I’ll take some potatoes.

Charlie

Here you go.

Charlie puts some on a plate

And serves it.

Cecil

Arriving

What’s going on hommies?

Charlie

Just eating. You want some?

Cecil

No thanks. I had something before
I left my apartment.

Jules

I have to go see the girl. I’ll be back.

Charlie

Well do what you have to Jules.
I’ll still be here when you get back.

Jules

See you later.

Cecil

How are you Charlie?

Charlie

Well I found a good bathroom
Near the train station. That’s a start.

Cecil

You should find an apartment.

Charlie

Are you kidding? You know how
Much money I save living out here?
It’s ridiculous.

Cecil

But still you need a place.

Charlie

I guess that’s true. (long pause)
I think I’ll head up town and see
The town center. Beats staying
Around here all day. You want to
Come with me?

Cecil

No I have some things to do.
I’ll see you later.

Charlie goes over to the tent
and packs some things into a smaller backpack.

Charlie

I guess I’ll see you later on.

Cecil

Yeah. Later

45 – EXT-TRAIN-MORNING

Charlie boards the train and a beautiful young blonde woman

Sits across from him. They both get off at the same station and she walks ahead while

Charlie enters the local Mcdonalds. He goes to the croissant counter and a beautiful

Brunette is serving.

45a – INT-MCDONALDS-MORNING

Charlie

Can I have a chocolate croissant

And a cup of coffee.

Countergirl

Two euros forty (in French)

Charlie

Thank you.

Charlie takes his food upstairs and there are many students eating breakfast and talking amongst

Themselves. A group of girls get up to leave and one of them stays behind, grabs her purse

And sits right across from Charlie.

Lauren

So.

Charlie

So.

Lauren

You’re an American?

Charlie

You know. How did you guess?

Lauren

The whole town knows. It’s a

Very small town.

Charlie

I guess.

Lauren

What’s your name?

Charlie

Charlie, I’m Charlie

Lauren

Well, nice to meet you Charlie

Charlie

What’s yours?

Lauren

I’m Lauren.

Charlie

Nice to meet you Lauren

Lauren

Nice to meet you too Charlie

Charlie

What do you do Lauren?

Lauren

Hmmm. What do I do?

I think I better get back to school.

Charlie

That’s probably a good idea.

Lauren

You think so?

Charlie

Yeah.

Lauren (packing her things)

How long have you been here Charlie?

Charlie

Less than a week.

Lauren

Less than a week. Maybe I'll see you

Around sometimes.

Charlie

Maybe so.

Lauren

Goodbye Charlie

Charlie

Goodbye Lauren.

We see her leave while Charlie

Sips his coffee.

Some girls at another table are laughing and giggling.

Some more boys enter and sit down.

46-EXT-HYPER CENTER CAEN- AFTERNOON

Charlie is seated at a dry fountain under repair. We see a very old couple walking hand in hand.

Charlie v.o. “They have a word that I guess I never knew before coming to France. The word is

devotion. Men and women who got married before and after the War took care of one another

forever. I had never seen such a beautiful thing my whole life until I came to Normandy. The

Normans are truly devout in their love for one another.” TENDERLY from 1947 with Sara

Vaughn begins to play. We see the couple walking into the distance.

47-INT-PUBLIC SHOWERS-AFTERNOON

Charlie puts his bag down and there are maybe thirty or forty immigrants charging their phones,

playing cards, talking amongst themselves and

Charlie goes into the shower and cleans up.

48-EXT-BRIDGE of L’ORNE RIVER-LATE AFTERNOON

Charlie crosses the bridge and looks at the ducks in the river. He stops a while to feed them

breadcrumbs from his backpack.

Charlie v.o. “Beginning. It goes like this. To understand the difference between life, love and

death, future and past, the world revolving, our lives intersect I think, in ways we cannot know,

fortune tellers throwing cards, astrologers who see skies

But what is our future then the love we make today.”

49-INT-LIBRARY-LATE AFTERNOON

Charlie enters passed the security guard and asks for a Library card. He shows his passport and

receives a card. He goes up the escalator and finds a computer. He gets into his email and begins

to type. Charlie v.o. “Dear family, everything is going good. I can’t say for sure when I am

getting an apartment but I’m going to start checking around soon and give yourselves a big kiss

and know that I am thinking of you.” A beautiful girl dressed in camouflage pants sits across

from him and starts to laugh with a girlfriend next to her. Charlie gets up and leaves.

50-INT-SMALL BAR-LATE AFTERNOON

Miles Davis Quintet plays “It Never Entered my Mind” Charlie goes up the stairs to the second

floor and Orders a beer. He sits over the beer for a while and smokes a cigarette.

Charlie v.o.

“To tell the truth, I don’t know how long I was going to stay for, but I had planned at that

moment never to leave Caen. I thought it was the most beautiful city in the world during those

days. I didn’t want to leave.”

Some more guests enter the restaurant bar and Charlie nurses his

beer and then finds money in his wallet and puts it on the plate for the waiter. He leaves and

heads back to the tent.

51-EXT-CAEN-EVENING

. We see Charlie walking alone towards the train station and

He fades out of sight as he boards the train.

52-INT-TRAIN-EVENING

The police demand to see his ticket and Charlie shows him the ticket and the two officers wave

each other onward and continue to search the train. There is a young man with a trumpet seated

on the train. Miles Davis is still playing. Charlie v.o. “In America I was a talent agent. All these

bright students made me miss the profession. You never knew when you were going to meet the

next brightest star and I loved doing the commercial work, but in the end, I had to resign myself

to the fact that my true love is poetry and that writing is the only thing I really enjoy doing.”

53-EXT-GARE TRAIN STATION EVENING

Charlie gets off the train and there is a small writing desk

Abandoned at the end of the platform. Charlie v.o. “The French have a poetic way of taking care

Of one another and I always enjoyed their spirit.” Charlie gets a grip on the desk and carries it back to the tent.

54-EXT-CHARLIE’S TENT-EVENING

Charlie is sitting next to the fire cooking some boiling water for coffee and he pours a cup and

then leans on his new desk and ponders the

Empty page for the next poem

Charlie v.o “I wrote, Afternoon of Lowly reasons, I woke up that

day and tried to understand the difference between my life as it was and life as it is,

Trying to discern the difference, it was time to close my eyes to insanity, chaos, hostility and

war, prepared by those people who smiled with their smiles and left me to dust.”

Charlie leans back in the chair and smokes a cigarette. He crushes out the cigarette and gets into

the tent.

55-INT-TENT-NIGHTFALL

Charlie arranges his things in the tent and puts up a string of small Christmas lights. The tent is

suddenly illuminated and Charlie turns on the music player

With small speaker. Bob Dylan “Twist of Fate plays” and Charlie pours over his journals and

then gets into the sleeping bag and makes himself comfortable. The music fades.

Charlie v.o. “Hope and Glory, so many fallen heroes, turning to ashes,

In lost graves, found along the way, of famous battles,

I saw them, alone, in the growing grass of Normandy, speaking to me,

Of times long ago, they had husbands and wives, children who grew up,

Stranded in the memory of them, I used to wonder their names,

But they died unknown, buried next to new hospitals,

And old churches, I walked along the roads and thought of the brutal war,

That took their lives, all for hope and glory.”

There is a knock on the tent and
he unzips the tent door and two officers are waiting outside with a dog.

Charlie
Hello.

Officer 1
Hello. What are you doing here?

Charlie
I’m a writer. I came here to write.
I have a passport.

Officer 2
Show it to him.

Charlie
You can smell with the dogs
But I have no drugs. I’m a
Writer. I’m here to write.

Officer 1
What are you doing here in Normandy?

Charlie (offers him his journal)
I told you. I’m a poet and a writer. You see.

Officer 1 (smiling)

It’s o.k. go back to sleep.

Charlie

Thanks officer.

Officer 2 (checking the radio)

You know you can always dial 511

If you want a room, they will come and get you.

Charlie

Thank you officer.

Officer 1

Alright.

The officers depart. Charlie rezips

The tent and gets comfortable again.

There is another KNOCK on the tent.

This time it’s Thomas.

Thomas

Charlie, it’s me Thomas

Charlie

Man, I was just going to sleep.

Thomas

I missed the bus. I have no where
To sleep.

Charlie (unzipping the tent)

Man.

Thomas

Let’s smoke some shit.

Charlie

Man, the cops were just here.

Thomas (laughing)

I know. I saw them.
That’s why I came over.
To see if you were o.k.
You’re my friend Charlie.
I wanted to make sure.
I was scared for you.

Charlie

Ah, it was nothing. They
Were just checking my
Passport.

Thomas

Let’s smoke some shit.

Charlie

You got any? Cause the
Dogs were just here.

Thomas

Man they are all gone now.
Time to smoke.

Charlie

Oh alright. If you insist.

Thomas

Do you have anything to drink?

Charlie

There’s a couple of beers near the
Desk.

Thomas

Ha. Where did you get that?

Charlie

Someone just left it at the train station.

Thomas

Let me get some beer. Hold on.

Thomas moves through the bushes to the other side of the tent
And finds the beer. He cracks one open and hands over the other one.

Charlie

Fine.

Thomas

What did you do today?

Charlie

I tried to get some sleep
Then you woke me up.

Thomas

You know why.

Thomas and Charlie together

Because I’m a man.

Thomas

Ha. You’re learning.

RUSTLE of bushes.

Jules arrives.

Jules

I say. Women are no good.

Charlie

What happened?

Jules

She left me. Where’s the beer?

Charlie

Here, have mine. I haven’t even

Touched it yet.

Charlie gets up to get another beer and can’t find one.

The three have seats and get comfortable.

Charlie is at the edge of the tent door

And Jules and Thomas are sitting on the

Tree root.

Jules

I tell you in Somalia

I once killed a man.

Charlie

You killed a man?

That doesn’t seem like
Something in your
Character Jules. What
Happened?

Jules

Somalia is very poor.
This man came into my house
Looking for things and I shot him.
I killed him dead. That’s why I
Am here. I had to run all the way from
My country.

Charlie

That’s a long run.

Jules

It wasn’t all running. I took
A boat.

Charlie

Well the French have been good to you.
They give you a little money to live on and
You have your own place.

Jules

Yes. I like it here.

Thomas

Oh man, I’m out of shit.
I go up the street. I’ll be
Right back.

Thomas departs into the bushes
And out to the street.

Charlie

Well,the parties just
Getting started I guess
No sleep for me. Might
As well cook some coffee.
You want some coffee Jules?

Jules

No thanks. I have beer.

Charlie

Yeah. You have my beer.
But go ahead. Tell me
More about Somalia. In
America all we hear is you
Have pirates.

Jules

In Somalia I walk fifty miles

In one day. I walk to the top
Of the hills and then I rest
My spirit and come down.
I tell you Charlie, you should
Visit my country.

Charlie
Your people are always at war
Jules.

A drunk man is singing and then stops
In front of the tent. He is a white man,
Small build, with a leather jacket on.

Jules
Go away. I tell you go away.

Charlie goes to reason with him.
The man says something nearly incoherent in French.
The man asks for five Euros.
Charlie says no he doesn’t have any money
And the drunk man hits him in the face
Sending his glasses to the street.
They tussle and Charlie fends off the attack
And the drunk man falls over and Charlie has
Him pinned to the street and his head is in the
Street and a bus is coming and Charlie thinks
For a moment whether to let the man die at the

Hands of the busdriver but at the last second
Pulls him up to his feet. The man pulls a knife
And Charlie runs across the street to the lights
Of awaiting ambulance but there is no one there.
When he returns the tent is trashed, in pieces.
Jules is gone and Charlie looks for a roll of
Tape to bandage the tent and gets to work.
Thomas arrives while Charlie is working.

Thomas
Oh man. What happened here?

Charlie
I got into a fight with a drunk.

Thomas
He’s lucky I was gone
Because I would have killed the man.

Charlie
I think I almost did.

Thomas (lighting a spliff)
Is he gone?

Charlie
I guess so. I have to fix this
Tent. I guess it’s too messed

Up to sleep in tonight. I'll just
sleep on top of it.

Thomas
Do you have an extra blanket.
I missed the bus.

Charlie
Sure Thomas.

They both fall asleep
In the bushes.

56-EXT-CHARLIE'S TENT-MORNING

Charlie does what he can to fix the tent and
Looks over and there is a blanket where Thomas
Had slept but he is gone. Louise comes by.

Louise
Charlie, what happened?

Charlie
Oh I got into a fight last
Night with a drunk and he
Trashed the place up pretty good.

Louise

Your eye is bruised. Are you o.k?
You should go to the hospital.

Charlie
No I’m alright really.
It looks like evertythings
o.k. for now. I managed
to fix it with some tape.
I have to go to the
Bathroom.

Louise
Charlie, do you have a Euro?

Charlie
Beer already. It’s too early
Louise.

Louise
Please Charlie. Just one euro.
I need a beer. So much
Happened last night.

Charlie
You’re telling me. What
Happened to you?

Louise

I live in a shelter with like

A hundred other women

And this one girl is so mean

I swear I never want to go back,

But I have to, it’s the only place

For me to stay.

Charlies

Walk with me. I really have to

Go to the bathroom.

Charlie and Louise start to walk along the Maple lined trees towards the bench.

Louise sits down. Charlie gives her a Euro.

Charlie

I guess you’ll be back when I am.

Louise (laughing)

Probably.

Gabe arrives.

Franklin arrives

Francois is peeing in a bush

And emerges.

Francois

Charlie. What happened?

Charlie

Just a little fight Francois.

Gabe

You know these people can

Be assholes.

Franklin

Are you heading to the train station?

Charlie

Yeah, I have to shave.

Franklin

Here, I'll walk with you.

Francois

Au revoir Charlie

Charlie

I'll be right back Francois

Don't get too sentimental.

Charlie and Franklin start to walk.

Charlie

Hey Franklin. Do you think
You can get me some shit?

Franklin

Shit? Yeah I can get you some shit.
How much?

Charlie

I don’t know, maybe twenty dollars.
I got some money early so I’m celebrating,.

Franklin

I’ll have to take the train up to the Grace de Dieu

It will take maybe a half hour.

Charlie

We’ll I’ll be cooking breakfast
By then so just come around to the
Tent and I’ll make you some eggs.

Franklin

OK.

Charlie and Franklin split up at the entry of the train station
And Franklin runs for a train while Charlie enters the station
To go to the public restroom. There are many people with baggage
Waiting and Charlie finally gets in and shaves.
Charlie goes down the stairs of the station and emerges to the
Other side and heads into the Sports Centre. There is a beautiful
Girl at the front desk.

57-INT-GYM-MORNING

Counter Girl

Bonjour.

Charlie

Bonjour. Do you have showers in the gym?

Counter Girl

Yes. Showers and a sauna. My English is not so good.

Charlie

That’s great. How much for a monthly
Membership?

Counter Girl

Excuse me.

She goes over to the man
Also working the counter and
He approaches.

Counter Guy
Her English is not so good.
How can I help you?

Charlie
I’d like to know about a monthly
Membership.

Counter guy
Fifty euros.

Charlie
Great, I’ll put it on my card.

The girl goes into a log book
And gets a new page.

Counter Guy
Please fill out this basic information.

Charlie
OK.

He looks up and down
At Charlie.

Counter Guy
Do you have gym shoes?

Charlie
What?

Counter Guy
You'll need sports shoes
For the gym.

Charlie
Alright, I'll get some.

Counter Guy
Would you like a tour?

Charlie
Sure.

The counter guy takes him upstairs
And shows him the treadmills and weights
The shower room and sauna.

Charlie
We'll I guess I'll be back when I have the

Right attire.

Charlie goes back to the front desk
And signs the paperwork and pays.
The counter guy looks shocked and
The counter girl smiles.

57A – EXT- CAEN-AFTERNOON

Charlie walks back along the Rue Traiteurs

57B- INT-FAST MARKET- AFTERNOON

He stops in at Leonardo's food stop
And Leonardo is sketching a new page.

Leonardo
Can I help you?

Charlie
Just some of your yogurt today Leonardo.
thanks.

Charlie pays him one euro.
Charlie heads to the tent. Franklin is waiting for him.

58-EXT-TENT-AFTERNOON

Charlie
We'll I guess you beat me.

Sorry I didn’t have breakfast ready.

Franklin

It’s alright. I had kabob.

Charlie

For breakfast?

Franklin

I eat it all the time.

Charlie

Man I have to have breakfast.

Charlie starts cutting potatoes.

Franklin

This is what I got.

Franklin hands over the shit.

Charlie

That’s a pretty good deal Franklin.
You know I wasn’t going to smoke
Shit when I first got here but everyone
Was beginning to think I am the police.

Franklin

No. We didn’t think that Charlie.

Charlie

Well I guess I did for a moment there.

Franklin

It’s o.k.

Charlie

Let’s smoke while I cook.

Franklin

You want me to roll it?

Charlie

Yeah. I’m terrible at rolling joints.

You can do it better than me, I’m sure.

Franklin

Why did you leave California?

Charlie

I don’t know. Just to get away.

Why did you leave India?

Franklin

It’s a very poor country.

I wanted to make a new life for myself.
My father died when I was very young.
I never really knew him.

Charlie
Yeah. My father just died recently.
It’s hard to lose someone like that.
Almost twenty years ago, but it seems
Like yesterday.

Franklin
I think about it all the time.

Charlie
I guess I do to.

Charlie and Franklin
Start to smoke and
Charlie cooks hashbrowns.

Charlie
You want some.

Franklin
Ok maybe a little.

Both eating.

Franklin

Yeah, they’re good.

How do you like the shit?

Charlie

It’s good too. Franklin

You’re a genius.

Franklin

No man it was nothing.

Gabe peeps in.

Gabe

You smoking that shit?

Franklin and Charlie

Yes.

Gabe

Is this a private conversation

Or can I join you?

Charlie

Sure. Come on in.

Gabe

Hey Charlie, can you spare

A Euro for beer?

Charlie

Man I just gave one to Louise.
Here.

Gabe

Thanks

Gabe leaves.

Franklin

You shouldn’t give them any money
They just drink beer all day.

Charlie

Yeah, well it keeps them happy.
In California everyone is depressed.

Franklin

The important thing is to keep yourself
Happy. Are you happy Charlie?

Charlie

I’m as happy as I can be considering

The circumstances, Franklin. Come on
I got to shop for shoes.

Franklin

I can’t go with you. I have to go to my
English class at the college.

Charlie

Are you studying at the University of Caen?
I would like to be a professor there one day.

Franklin

No it’s a smaller college next to the campus.

Charlie

Oh.

Franklin

I better be going.

Charlie

Well thanks for the smoke Franklin.

Franklin’

No problem man.

59-INT-H&M STORE-AFTERNOON

Charlie buys some shoes and heads over to the Sports Centre.

59A-INT-GYM-AFTERNOON

The pretty girl is at the counter cand Charlie comes in and shows the counter guy his new shoes.

The counter girl feigns a swoon with her hand reaching through the air “Oh Charlie” Charlie

goes upstairs laughing and goes on cthe treadmill and takes a sauna.

He is alone in the locker room and she comes into check the temperature. Charlie comes

Downstairs and is greeted by the counter guy who politely announces there has been a customer

complaint and that his membership is no longer welcome and he is happy to refund the fifty

dollars. Charlie doesn’t understand and wants to know who. The counter guy says he doesn’t

know and apologizes he can come pick up his money Thursday when they have cash.He asks the

girl her name on the way out and she answers “Annette” He says “Goodbye Annette”

60-INT-TENT-AFTERNOON

Charlie is smoking a joint in the tent. The music is playing “Turn out the Stars” by Bill Evans.

Charlie v.o. “I never saw the girl again. I found a gym up the street and never figured out what

had happened in there. I was only disappointed that I never got a chance to take her to coffee. I

have to admit that getting thrown out like that was a shock, but after a

Few joints I had more important problems, like finding an apartment.

^!-INT-MCDONALDS-LATE AFTERNOON

Charlie walks in and picks up the local paper.

He calls a number that is listed for an apartment and tells them that he doesn’t speak French so

well and they say “sorry” and hang up. Charlie v.o. “This is going to be harder then I

thought.”

62-EXT-PARK-LATE AFTERNOON

Charlie walks along the lower basse Normandie

park and find himself in a beautiful area. Charlie v.o. “I once wrote a poem called Leave the Past

Behind, it goes like this, Somewhere in the afternoon a café au lait at La Terrase is not so bad,

the road ahead lined with old cobblestones, sounds of the men working, people talk over coffee

even in a cold snow you can still see bicycles moving through town, seagulls crying in the

distance, streaks of light Bouncing off clouded skies, lights shining from puddles of rain,

teardrops of rain glistening in cold afternoon of dawn disappearing.”

Charlie finds a place to camp and lays out his sleeping bag and makes a peanut butter

Sandwich.

63-EXT-PARK-MORNING

Charlie awakens and he is all alone. He packs his gear and Heads to the tent across town. He

packs some things and goes to the library.

63A-INT-LIBRARY-MORNING

Charlie starts to type from his notes the poem he has just

recited. Charlie v.o. “Poetry, for me

Was a lost art that I wanted to replenish into the ages of man with my devotion. I wanted

To prove to myself that the beauty of life is something we can cherish and not ignore. I

Loved meeting new people along the way but there were times when I wanted to be alone

To myself and contemplate the eternity of which we all seek.”

64-EXT-FRENCH OPEN AIR MARKET-MORNING

Charlie

How much for the watch?

Man

Seven Euros.

Charlie buys the watch.

Franklin

Hey Charlie.

Charlie

Hey Franklin. I was just

Going to shop for fruits and

Things. You want to come

By for lunch?

Franklin

You need any shit?

Charlie

How long will it take you?

Franklin

Can you buy me a kabob?

Charlie

Sure.

Franklin

I’ll see you in about an hour.

Charlie gives him twenty,

Charlie

Thanks Franklin. I’ll see you
Back at the tent.

Charlie and Franklin
Split up and Charlie
Walks through the open air market
Mesmerized by the beautiful produce.
He buys a big piece of steak and
Some onyx stones.

65-EXT-CHARLIE’S TENT-AFTERNOON

Charlie arrives and Mustafa is there waiting for him.

Mustafa

Hey Charlie.

Charlie

How’s it going?

Mustafa

Look at this piece.

Only forty dollars.

Shows him some shit.

Charlie

Man I would but I just gave

Franklin twenty to pick me up

Something.

Mustafa

Charlie, whenever you need

Something you can always

Come to me.

Charlie

Next time Mustafa. I swear.

You want something to eat.

Mustafa (laughing)

Charlie, is this your kitchen?

Charlie

Yeah, I guess. Why you laughing?

Mustafa

Charlie you should get out of this

Town. There’s nothing here for anybody.

Charlie

Man, are you kidding me? I just went

To the weekend market. You can buy

Everything there.

Mustafa

You have everything you need

In America don’t you?

Charlie

Everything but my sanity.

Mustafa (laughing)

Yeah, that’s true.

You’re smart Charlie. That’s
Why I like hanging out with you.

Charlie
Well thanks Mustafa.
You have any shit to smoke?

Mustafa
No I got to get rid of this for
Some friends. In fact, I have to
Get back to them. I’ll come check you
Later, o.k.?

Charlie
O.k. I’ll just be here cooking the usual.
Hashbrowns and toast. Stop by later if
You can.

Mustafa
Ok I will.

Charlie puffs on a cigarette and turns the music player on in the tent.

He sits at the desk and begins to write as the music plays. Cecil arrives with Francois.

Cecil

Hey hommie. What’s going on?

Charlie

Just writing some poetry.

Cecil

Cool.

Francois

Charlie, are you cooking?

Charlie

Yeah Francois. I can put

Another potato in for you.

Francois

Thanks.

Cecil (lighting a spliff)

We didn’t see you at the market.

Charlie

I was there.

Francois

How long have you been here Charlie?

Charlie

I don’t know. I think in
October nearly a year.

Cecil

You should come up and see my place.
You can rent a spot from me.

Charlie

Are you serious?

Cecil

Yeah man, come and take the bus with me.

Charlie

I’ll have to check you later, I have
To wait for Franklin. Besides,
I wouldn’t want to impose on you Cecil,
I know you have a small place.
I’m really looking for a small place like
You have.

Cecil

Well then you can stay with me.

Charlie

I’m thinking of travelling to Bayeaux

Tomorrow. Is it far?

Francois

Not so far.

Charlie

I really want to go as far as St. Lo

But I don’t know if I should even

Travel that far out of town.

Cecil

You can come see my place

In the morning and then decide

What you want to do.

Charlie

O.K.

Scene 66. EXT- DEAD AGENT PLAQUE - MORNING

The Old French Officers are presenting flowers and a band is playing. Charlie walks by the

plaque and Looks at the names. Charlie v.o “Milletti, I wonder what happened to you. Were

you Killed during the war in a plot filled with sabotage and secrets? Were you at home living

comfortably one morning when the phone rang and you got the call to meet someone who never

showed?”

Charlie goes into the train station and asks for a ticket to Bayeaux. The train is leaving

At eleven thirty. Charlie takes a ticket and leaves for the bus up to Cecil's.

67-INT-CECIL'S APARTMENT-MORNING

It is a tiny place Cecil spreads his arms wide open

And looks at Charlie.

Cecil

We'll here is the palace.

Charlie looks at the mattress on the floor and the kitchen

That consists of a hot plate and refrigerator.

Charlie

How much do you want for it?

Cecil

You can stay here with me

For three hundred and fifty euros.

Charlie

That sounds alright.

Cecil

When do you want to move in?

Charlie

After I get back from Bayeuax.

Cecil

Cool.

Charlie

It’s a nice little town.

Cecil

Sure. Herouville. It’s the best.

Charlie

Well I still want a place
In Caen, but this place
Will do for now.

Cecil

Sure Hommie. You’ll
Like it up here.

Charlie

I have to take a train in an
Hour to Bayeux but I’ll stop
By tomorrow and pay you.

Cecil

No problem. Anytime you want.
You know, you’re always welcome
To my place Charlie, you know that.

Charlie

I know Cecil. Thanks.

68-INT-LEONARDO’S MARKET-MORNING

Leonardo

What do you need?

Charlie

Oh. No strawberry yogurt.
Leonardo, you know
I love the strawberry yogurt.

Leonardo

Try the cherry.

Charlie

O.K. I guess.

Charlie purchases the yogurt and then
Grabs a snickers bar.

Charlie

I guess I’ll need some chocolate for

The train.

Leonardo

Yes. Yes.

69-INT-TRAIN-AFTERNOON

Charlie is watching the landscape move

As the train makes it’s way east to Bayeaux. There are announcements in French

And the car comes to a stop.

70-EXT-BAYEAUX-AFTERNOON

Here is a quaint old hotel and Charlie looks around

The small town from his position on the train tracks after the train has left.

He goes into the small restaurant next to the hotel and order a hot fuge Sunday and

A cup of coffee. He goes into his backpack and picks out his journal and takes

A picture of his sundae. He leaves and comes upon a vast field of yellow flowers.

He sits down at the side of the road and takes a long look at the breathtaking view of

Flowers. He walks in the town and comes upon a gorgeous old house and takes some pictures of

it. He is stopped by officers and tells them after reviewing his passport that he is only in town

for the day and leaving on the last train out. He waits at the train station to reboard the train

And he takes the train back to Caen. Charlie v.o. “There is nothing more free to me then

Being alone to myself with nature and learning all new things as you go.. The trouble was

When I took the bus to Cecil’s that night I took the wrong one and I was dropped at the last

Stop and didn’t know where I was. I had to sleep on the side of the road and in the morning

The police came and arrested me.”

71-INT-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

Charlie is in the med room with two nurses and

The doctor enters.

Doctor

What is your name?

Charlie

Charlie Donaldson sir.

Doctor

Charlie do you know why you are here?

Charlie

Not really.

Doctor

You are charged with masturbating
In front of children.

Charlie

You’re kidding.

Doctor

So you are saying you didn’t do it?

Charlie

Absolutely not. I mean I may have
Taken a piss in the middle of the night.
That’s as far as it goes.

Doctor

Do you take any prescription
Medications?

Charlie

Well I used to take risperidal
But it gave me horrifying side
Effects.

Doctor

What kind?

Charlie

Tardive dyskinesia. Now I
Have trouble swallowing. They
Say to me it is dysphagia.

Doctor

But surely you are mentally ill
And require treatment?

Charlie

Well that’s sort of why I left America
In the first place, to get away from
Taking medications.

Doctor

So you’re saying you don’t want any?

Charlie

That’s right.

Doctor

How about something to calm
Your nerves?

Charlie

No thanks.

Charlie

Can I ask you how long I have to stay here?

Doctor

We'll see how you are doing

At the end of two weeks.

Charlie

Two weeks? Are you kidding me?

Doctor

I'm afraid not. Nurse will you

Show Mr. Donaldson to his room.

Nurse

Yes Doctor.

Charlie is led down the long hallway of the mental hospital and shown to a room.

71A-EXT-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

There is a fence and a road and a wall that has names scratched in it and one of the scrawlings

says in big letters "Annette was here" Charlie spins around and says "wow"

Three other people are smoking and Charlie bums a cigarette from a German girl.

Charlie

What’s your name?

Girl

I’m Doris.

Charlie

Nice to meet you Doris.

Do you know what time we eat?

Doris

Soon.

Charlie

What are you in here for?

Doris

I was homeless and they

Brought me here.

Charlie

Me too.

Fabien is a Frenchman smoking next to them. He says something in French.

Charlie

What did he say?

Doris

He said he lives in a big mansion
Alone in the countryside and he
Was drinking a lot and guess he
Went crazy because they came
And heard screaming.

Charlie

Ask him how long has he been here?

Doris and Fabian
Speak in French.

Doris

He says about two months.

Charlie

Two months. Shit.

72-INT-KITCHEN-NIGHT

There are eight tables and the meal is served
In a line. The patients all line up and there
Is a very old woman who walks very slow.
Charlie sits next to her.

Charlie

You know if circumstances

Were any different you and I would
Be heading to Vegas right now and
We would have the last fling of our
Lives together.

She smiles and eats. The radio
Is playing French music.

73-INT-FABIAN'SROOM-EVENING

Fabian is stirring coffee.

Fabian
Café?

Charlie
Oui Mssr.

Fabian
You know all of the Soviet
Union is under constant control.
Even in the middle East they have power.

Charlie
Are you talking about Putin? He's very
Powerful in his country.

Fabian

Yes but to the French he is an
Idiot. All politicians are idiots.

Charlie

I told the Americans the Russians
Were headed for Syria. No one
Believed me.

Fabian

The Russians are after the world.
Read my notes.

Charlie

You’re a writer! That’s
Fantastic.

Fabian

Yes. I write. But only for
Myself.

Charlie

Well you should share your
Writing with others. I bet

You have a lot of talent.

Fabian

Talent is for the critics
To decide. And I would
Never want to put my
Writing in their hands.
But I'll share it with you.

Charlie

Why me?

Fabian

You seem intelligent.

Charlie

Nobody listens to me.

Fabian

I am listening to you.

Charlie

But look at where we are
Fabian. Stuck in a nut house
just because people don't understand us.

Fabian

Yes, it's tragic

Charlie

Well thanks Fabian.

Can I ask you something?

Fabian

What?

Charlie (laughing)

How much coffee do you drink

In a day?

Fabian

Maybe six cups.

Charlie (laughing)

You-re going to give yourself

Permanent diarrhea.

They both laugh

74-INT-CHARLIE’SROOM-MORNING

The nurse peeks in.

Nurse

Mr. Donaldson you have Court today.

Charlie

Thanks nurse. I know. I'll be right out.

Charlie gets out of bed and puts his pants on.

He starts down the hallway and the old woman

is walking ultra slow down the corridors.

Charlie holds the elevator for her.

Charlie v.o. "Sometimes when I see a woman

that old struggling so hard, I hear music in my head"

Charlie goes down the elevator with her

and finds the shower room. We see

Charlie soaping under the water. The piano plays Bill Evans “ Waltz for Debby”

cut to:

75-INT-WAITING ROOM FOR CORT-MORNING

Evelyn

Mr. Donaldson I am Evelyn Spencer

I'll be your translator today in Court.

Is there anything you want to go

over before we see the Magistrate?

Charlie

Only that I didn't do it.

Evelyn

I'm afraid the French are tough on these charges

We should be able to get you out in another

week if the Doctor permits.

Charlie

Another week? If the Doctor permits.

Alright Ms. Spencer, do what you can.

They head into the Court.

Scene 76. Interior. courtroom. Afternoon.

Charlie

I'm an American here. They said if I stayed

in Caen, they would protect me. But for

some reason I got the crazy idea of traveling to Bayeaux

and when I got back to this town I was treated

like a complete stranger.

Judge

These charges are very serious. The French take

them very seriously. (in french)

Evelyn

She says the charges are very serious. The French take

them very seriously.

Charlie

I know. but I swear I didn't do it.

Judge (in french again)

You will be released pending a Doctor's review of your condition.

Evelyn

You will be released pending a Doctor's review of your condition.

Charlie

How long will that take?

Evelyn

Maybe a week.

Maybe a month.

It's hard to say.

77-INT-CHARLIE’S ROOM-MORNING

Charlie is sitting on the bed with his head in his hands.

He is listening to Frances Gall "Evidement" on the phone.

Fabian enters

Fabian

Do you have any Coffee?

Charlie

Hello Fabian. I might as well be stuck in here forever. What did you ask me?

Fabian

Cafe?

Charlie

No I ran out too. I'll go ask Doris.

Fabian

She should have some. Thanks.

78-EXT-HOSPITAL-AFTERNOON

There is a new girl there with Doris and Fabian.

Charlie

What's your name?

Cynthia

Cindi

Charlie

What did you do?

Cynthia

I guess I ran a stoplight

and then the police put their horns

on and I got panicked and started to drive away.

Charlie

That was dumb.

Cynthia

Yeah

Charlie

Do you have a cigarette?

Cynthia

Sure.

Cecil peers through the other side of the fence.

Cecil

Hey hommie.

Charlie

Cecil. How did you find me?

Cecil

They told me you were in here.

Charlie

Who?

Cecil

The police

Charlie

I'm glad you stopped by. You called the police

Cecil

Yeah man. I had to.

I dod not know where to find you.

How long are you staying here Mr. Charlie?

Charlie

Staying? You make it sound like

A vacation.

I don't know. Another week. Another month.

I thought we won this war a long time ago.

Is there something we’re missing?

Cecil

Another month?

Charlie

Yeah that's what I said.

Cecil

I brought you a couple of cigarettes.

Charlie

Thanks Cecil.

Cecil

I don't have many but I brought what I could.

Charlie

I appreciate that Cecil.

Cecil

No problem.

79. INT-LONG HALLWAY OF ASYLUM-AFTERNOON

The old lady is slowly walking through the corridor.

80-INT-DOCTOR'S OFFICE-AFTERNOON

Doctor

How are you feeling in general Mr. Donaldson?

Charlie

I'm doing pretty good Doc. Did I ever tell you that you look just like my friend Gary at home?

Doctor

I would like to see a picture.

Charlie

I wish I had one. Maybe I'll send you one when I get the chance.

Doctor

hmmm. So you are still against taking any medications?

Charlie

Yes

Doctor

We're going to give you a pass tomorrow from ten o c'clock in the morning to five pm to let you shop around town if you want.

Charlie

Seriously? That's great.

Doctor

I thought you might appreciate the good news.

Charlie

I do.

Doctor

Tell me Charlie, are you feeling any better?

Charlie

Better than what?

Doctor

Better than when you came in?

Charlie

I guess so.

Doctor

You were in pretty bad shape
When you arrived.

Charlie

Really? You think so?

Doctor

Yes, I think so.

Charlie

The only problem was

I took the wrong bus.

Doctor

But you need medications.

Charlie

I’ll be alright.

Doctor

They are necessary for you

Don’t you think?

Charlie

Well, as they say,

It ain’t necessarily so.

81-INT-NURSES’ STATION-MORNING

Nurse 1

Can I help you?

Charlie

Yes, I’m supposed to
Have a day pass today.

Nurse 2
Really? We haven’t heard
From anybody regarding one.

Charlie
Well can you call someone?

Nurse 3
Sure. Why not?

Charlie
Why not?

The nurse dials a number
Out and confers with the Doctor.

Nurse 4
I guess you are cleared to go.

Charlie
I need my credit card.

Nurse 3
One of the assistance will take

You over to the cashiers station.

Charlie

Thanks.

82-EXT-HOSPITAL-MORNING

Charlie is walking along a pathway of the hospital
With one of the assistants.

Charlie

This sure is a big place.

Assistant

Yes it’s an old house
That managed to survive
Before the war.

Charlie

It’s a beautiful old place.

Assistant

When you leave it will be out
That gate and then make a left
Towards town.

They enter another building. Cut to:

83-INT-CASHIER’S OFFICE-MORNING

Counterguy

What’s your name?

Charlie

Here’s my paperwork.

I’m Charlie Donaldson.

Counterguy

Oh yes Mr. Donaldson

Here are your cards.

Charlie

Thanks.

He walks out with the assistant.

84-INT-PATISSERIE-MORNING

Charlie

Yes I’d like one of those

One of those and two of those.

Lady

Will that be all?

Charlie

And a cup of coffee if you have it.

Lady

Yes. Of course.

Charlie sits down with his desserts.

We see him eating and drinking.

Charlie v.o “Poetry was always for me the memory of something beautiful and the actualization

of the present and how these elements combine on the page. I wasn’t going to let the situation

Get me down to the point that it affected my writing but one thing I knew for sure. In the past

Year I had a lot to write about.”

The end.